

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing unit, comprising:

a main substrate having a basic processing circuit, which performs predetermined basic processing on endoscopic images, mounted thereon; and

an expansion substrate connected to said main substrate so that it can be disconnected freely, and having an expansion processing circuit, which performs predetermined expansion processing on the endoscopic images subjected to the basic processing by said basic processing circuit, mounted thereon,

wherein said expansion substrate has an identification data memory circuit, in which identification data used to identify said expansion substrate is stored, mounted thereon; and

said main substrate has a control circuit, which controls the contents of expansion processing to be performed using said expansion substrate according to the identification data read from said identification data memory circuit, mounted thereon.

2. An image processing unit according to claim 23, wherein: said control circuit outputs control parameters, which are used to control the contents of expansion processing, to said expansion substrate; and said expansion substrate has an expansion processing circuit, which performs expansion processing, and an expansion processing control circuit, which has the control parameters stored therein and controls said expansion processing circuit according to the control parameters, mounted thereon.

3. An image processing unit according to claim 1, wherein: said expansion substrate has an expansion processing circuit, which performed expansion processing, a program storage circuit, in which a program for producing control parameters used to control the contents of expansion processing is stored, and an expansion processing control circuit, which has the control parameters stored therein and controls said expansion processing circuit according to the control parameters, mounted thereon; and said control circuit produces the control parameters according to the program and outputs them to said expansion processing control circuit.

4. An image processing unit according to claim 3, wherein said program storage circuit has a plurality of programs stored therein.

5. An image processing unit according to claim 2, further comprising an input unit for use in designating the control parameters so that the contents of control will be input.

6. An image processing unit according to claim 1, wherein: said expansion substrate has an expansion processing circuit, which performs expansion processing, a control information storage circuit, in which control information is stored, and an expansion processing control circuit, which has the control parameters stored therein and controls said expansion processing circuit according to the control parameters, mounted thereon; and said control circuit produces the control parameters according to the control information and outputs them to said expansion processing control circuit.

7. An image processing unit according to claim 6, further comprising a display input unit for use in designating the control parameters with the control information displayed in a designation screen under the control of said control circuit.